

Atlantic Richfield Company

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March 4, 2011

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Jere Johnson
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-9-1
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: February 2011 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada: Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), CERCLA Docket No. 9-2007-0005; Administrative Order on Consent, CERCLA Docket No. 09-2009-0010

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9 (EPA), Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has prepared the following monthly report for RI/FS and removal action activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during February 2011.

February 2011 Activities

Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continued routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities including operation of the propane cannons for the Arimetco ponds (with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA). Bird guard towers remained active due to accumulated precipitation in the pumpback well system (PWS) evaporation pond. The “wind dancer” bird deterrent continued as planned to be re-located to lessen the possibility of birds becoming habituated to the “wind dancer”.
- Meteoric water remained in two of the PWS evaporation pond cells: North Cell = 0.0 feet; Middle Cell = 0.15 feet; South Cell = 0.25 feet. PWS remained inactive during temporary shut-down. Continued monitoring of the evaporation pan located near PW-6.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS) pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 4.0 feet; FMS Evaporation (EPA) Pond = 7.50 feet; VLT Pond = 5.25 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 12.25 feet. No solutions were transferred from the VLT Sediment Pond (VLTSP), the Phase 1 Pond, or from the Slot Sediment Pond (SSP) to the FMS Evaporation (EPA) Pond. Approximately 26,533 gallons of solution were pumped from the leak detectors. FMS monitoring data are attached.
- Improvements were made to the on-Site Sample Support Building for the 1Q 2011 monitoring programs. Improvements were made to the Blue Shop for O&M activities.

Other Site Activities

- Desert Engineering and Underground Video Tech, Inc. personnel cleaned and inspected the sewer line from the former Administration Building to the Weeds Heights collection box. No obstructions were noted during the jetting and inspection.

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February 2011 Activities - Continued

Other Site Activities - Continued

- Quatterra personnel worked in their core storage area. Entrée Gold personnel completed removal of their core.
- B.V. Nevada personnel continued planning of demolition and salvage activities.
- Sonce deVries (USFWS), Dietrick McGinnis and Justin Whitesides (YPT) conducted training for dead bird recoveries on February 22.

Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained March 1-4.
- A pit lake water elevation of 4224.008 feet amsl was recorded on February 28, 2011 from the newly installed pressure transducer, an increase of 0.471 feet since January 28, 2011. The pit lake elevation has risen 3.18 feet since February 28, 2010.
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location including wind speed/direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation and solar radiation.
- Based on discussions with EPA, submitted the revised text of the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment for the Inhalation Pathway (HHRA - Revision 1) on February 25.
- Two additional residences were added to the bottled water program during February 2011: (DW-42, and DW-119).
- The following changes were made to the domestic well program: signed access agreements were received for two additional residences (DW-182, and DW-52).
- Continued compilation of monitoring data for inclusion in the 2010 Annual Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Report. Submitted the 2010 Annual Domestic Well Monitoring Report on February 17.
- Completed the 1Q 2011 Site-wide groundwater monitoring program. Initiated the 1Q 2011 domestic well monitoring program.
- Completed the 2010 Monitor Well Installation and Ag Fields Characterization programs (see attached update). Monitor wells B/W-41S, B/W-41I, B/W-41D2 and B/W-41D4 were installed.
- Monitor wells B/W-2D3, B/W-2D4, B/W-2B, B/W-41S, B/W-41I, B/W-41D2, B/W-41D4, B/W-67D1, B/W-67I were developed.
- Slug testing of developed monitor wells concluded. All of the dedicated bladder pumps were installed in the new monitor wells and all of the new monitor wells were surveyed.
- Zonal sample results were received for B/W-41
- Monthly surface water sampling was conducted on February 28.
- Submitted the report summarizing sub-surface utility geophysical investigations in the Process Areas to EPA on February 18.
- Continued routine database management activities.
- Continued Site wildlife surveys, data management and wildlife observation reports.

AOC Removal Actions

- Submitted the Draft Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Completion Report on February 9, which was reviewed and approved by EPA on February 28. Continued compilation of the draft removal action completion reports for the remaining two removal actions (transite pipe and Process Areas rad soils).
- Continued to operate met stations and continuous monitors at AM-1, AM-3 and AM-6 in support of the removal actions (post-construction period).
- Continued to compile geochemical, plant growth parameter and geotechnical laboratory data for on- and off-Site materials collected pursuant to the EPA-approved Cover Materials Characterization Work Plan.

Planned March/April 2011 Activities

Site Characterization

- Continue Site wildlife surveys, maintenance of wildlife observation data and preparation of wildlife observation reports.
- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level monitoring.
- Continue compilation of, and submit, the 2010 Annual Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Report.
- Complete the 1Q 2011 domestic well sampling program. Initiate the compilation of data for inclusion in the 1Q 2011 monitor well and domestic well reports.
- Continue to compile data, and initiate the preparation of the data summary reports for the 2010 Monitor Well and Ag Fields Work Plans.
- Continue to supervise aquifer solids testing activities at Hazen Research Labs.
- Submit the 2011 On-Site Monitor Well Work Plan and meet with project stakeholders to discuss the scope of work.
- Meet with EPA to discuss the results and next phase of geophysical surveys and related investigations. Meet with EPA to discuss the Process Areas RI Work Plan.

AOC Removal Actions

- Complete and submit the two remaining draft removal action completion reports (transite pipe and Process Areas soils) and finalize the reports, pending EPA comments.
- Terminate the operations of the AQM stations in support of the removal actions (shut off on March 1).
- Complete and submit the 2010 Annual FMS O&M Report.
- Complete and submit the Cover Materials Characterization Data Summary Report.
- Submit the updated bird mitigation protocol to USFWS.
- Attend a meeting with EPA to discuss the evaporation ponds removal action.

If you have any questions or comments about the February 2011 monthly report, please contact me at (714) 228-6774 or via e-mail at jack.oman@bp.com.

Sincerely,



Jack Oman
Project Manager

Attachments

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail
Jacquelyn Hayes, EPA – via electronic mail
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail
Phyllis Hunewill – via electronic mail
Virgil Arellano, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail
Richard Faber, Lyon County Facilities Engineering – via electronic mail

Tom Grady, Nevada State Assembly – via electronic mail
Justin Whitesides, YPT – via electronic mail
Chairman Emm, YPT – via electronic mail
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates – via electronic mail
Tom Bowden, Ridolfi, Inc. – via electronic mail
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